

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FPC-01 SAJ-01 AEC-11 NEA-10

DRC-01 /188 W

----- 024649

R 040730Z DEC 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1643

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN ENRG, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN CONTROL PLACED ON USE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

REF: SOFIA 1627; STATE 229536

1. ON DECEMBER 1, GOB INTRODUCED MEASURES DESIGNED
TO RESTRICT THE USE OF LIQUID FUELS AND PETROLEUM
PRODUCTS. ACCRODING TO THE PRESS, THE DECISION WAS
NECESSARY BECAUSE OF SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES.

2. THE MOST STRINGENT MEASURES WERE APPLIED TO PRIVATELY
OWNED AUTOMOBILES (ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN 25 PERCENT OF ALL
VEHICLES IN BULGARIA); OWNERS WILL BE ALLOWED 40 LITERS
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OF GAS OR 30 LITERS OF DIESEL OIL PER MONTH AT NOVEMBER

30 PRICES (96, 93 AND 83 OCTANE AT 21.2 CENTS, 17.5 CENTS AND 15.7 CENTS RESPECTIVELY AND DIESEL OIL AT 9.7 CENTS). ANY ADDITIONAL PURCHASES WILL BE AT DOUBLE THE NOVEMBER 30 PRICES. OTHER MEASURES TAKEN: REDUCING SPEED LIMITS; THE GOAL OF REDUCING OFFICIAL VEHICLE CONSUMPTION BY 50 PERCENT; REDUCING THE HEATING OF ENTERPRISE AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING BY 15 PERCENT; "ECONOMIZING" OF CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEMS (CITY-WIDE SYSTEMS) BY 6-8 PERCENT; AND BANNING THE USE OF LIQUID FUELS IN LOCALES WHERE COAL AND WOOD ARE AVAILABLE.

3. COMMENT: FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER LUKANOV (PROTECT) TOLD CHARGE' THAT THE WORLD-WIDE INCREASE IN THE COST OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS NECESSITATED THE CONTROL AND INCREASED PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. SINCE THE INCREASE OF PRICES APPLIES ONLY TO PRIVATE VEHICLES, LUKANOV'S EXPLANATION SEEMS LESS THAN COMPLETE. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE SOVIETS IN ORDER TO SELL MORE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THE WEST, HAVE NOTIFIED THE BULGARS AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT ITS DELIVERY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IS BEING REDUCED. IF THIS IS TRUE, BULGARIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO FACE SUPPLY PROBLEMS AND INTRODUCE MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS IN THE FUTURE.

4. WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED THAT THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WILL NOT BE EFFECTED BY THESE MEASURES.
BATJER

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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